THE PROBLEM OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CLASS DIFFERENCES IN THE NOVELS OF ABDULLAH QADIRI AND CHARLES DICKENS

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ABSTRACT

Throughout the history of world literature, questions of human dignity, property inequality, and class oppression have consistently occupied a central place in artistic thought. This study approaches this universal problem through the works of two representatives of distinct cultural traditions: Abdullah Qadiri, a foundational figure of Uzbek literature, and Charles Dickens, a classic of English realist prose. Employing a comparative-typological method, the research examines both writers' attitudes toward social injustice, their techniques for revealing class conflict through systems of literary imagery, and their humanist positions. In Qadiri's novels "O'tkan kunlar" (Bygone Days) and "Mehrobdan chayon" (The Scorpion from the Altar), the oppression exercised by officials in a feudal-patriarchal society, gender inequality, and property injustice are analyzed. In Dickens's "Oliver Twist," "Hard Times," and "Great Expectations," the class polarization produced by industrial capitalism, the ruthless exploitation of child labor, and the tragedy of poverty are examined. The article concludes by summarizing the parallels and differences between the two authors' creative approaches and by situating their contribution within the broader development of world literature.

Keywords: Abdullah Qadiri, Charles Dickens, social justice, class inequality, realism, comparative literary studies, humanism, feudal society, industrial revolution, literary imagery, colonial period, Victorian society.

The problem of social justice and class inequality is one of the perennial themes that has retained its relevance across all periods of human history. Writers working in different centuries, on different continents, and under different socio-economic systems have consistently sought to expose the injustices of their time through literary art. In this respect, the comparative study of two distinct traditions of artistic thought — Eastern and Western — arouses particular scholarly interest, since such an analysis makes it possible to observe how universal human values find artistic expression across different cultures.

1. The Depiction of Social Injustice and Class Oppression in Abdullah Qadiri's Novels

As the founder of Uzbek realist prose, Abdullah Qadiri portrayed with profound artistry the socio-political landscape of Turkestan society at the turn of the twentieth century. In the novel "O'tkan kunlar," the writer exposes the full range of vices inherent in the feudal-patriarchal order — rivalry among officials for position, bribery, the powerlessness of ordinary people, and the unequal social status of women — through characters such as Otabek, Kumush, Yusufbek Hoji, and Homid. In particular, the tragic fate of Kumush serves as a vivid illustration of social injustice: her status as a secondary being within feudal society, whose destiny is decided entirely by men, embodies the systemic subordination of women in that era.

In "Mehrobdan chayon," set against the backdrop of the Khiva Khanate, Qadiri raises the issue of absolute power being wielded against the interests of the people, and of the ruling class

oppressing ordinary citizens for its own private gain. Through the character of Anvar, the writer creates the image of an educated protagonist who strives to resist injustice; however, the character's tragic end reveals how deeply rooted injustice remains within the society he inhabits.

2. Class Polarization and Social Injustice in Charles Dickens's Novels

Charles Dickens is recognized as the most incisive literary observer of the social transformations brought about by the industrial revolution in nineteenth-century British society. In "Oliver Twist," the writer depicts the appalling conditions endured by orphaned children in workhouses and society's harsh indifference toward the poor. Through Oliver's fate, Dickens exposes how the social system crushes its weakest and most defenseless members.

In "Hard Times," set in the industrial town of Coketown, Dickens portrays the harsh working conditions of the laboring class and their merciless exploitation by capitalists. He sharply criticizes the philosophy of utilitarianism — a worldview grounded solely in profit and statistics — and demonstrates how such a system stands in fundamental opposition to human dignity.

In "Great Expectations," the problem of social stratification is explored from a different angle — through the moral trials a character undergoes on the path toward achieving higher social status. Through the character of Pip, Dickens emphasizes the artificiality of class boundaries in society and argues that human dignity should not be contingent upon wealth.

A distinctive feature of Dickens's work is his depiction of social injustice through broad social panoramas, satire, and humor, employing an extensive system of characters. His novels possess the character of a wide-ranging artistic investigation encompassing multiple strata of society.

3. Comparative Analysis: Similarities and Differences

A comparison of the two writers' work reveals several shared characteristics. First, both authors employ the method of realism in their effort to portray the social reality of their time with objectivity. Second, humanist ideas — the defense of ordinary human dignity and the expression of protest against injustice — occupy a central place in both bodies of work. Third, both writers interpret social injustice not merely as a political issue but also as a moral one.

At the same time, notable differences exist between the two authors. Qadiri depicts social oppression chiefly within the context of feudal-patriarchal relations, colonial policy, and religious-moral order, whereas Dickens focuses on class exploitation and economic inequality within an industrial capitalist society. Stylistically, Qadiri's novels are marked by lyrical-psychological depiction and the analysis of inner experience, while Dickens's work is characterized by satire, hyperbole, and a broad social panorama.

4. The Shared Humanist Foundation

The most significant feature uniting the two writers is their profound humanism. Both Qadiri and Dickens, through their characters, sought to defend the rights of society's most vulnerable and defenseless members — women, children, and the poor. This shared commitment allows their work to be regarded as a universal artistic legacy that transcends the boundaries of time and place.

CONCLUSION

The comparative analysis conducted in this study demonstrates that, despite having created their works within different cultures and historical circumstances, Abdullah Qadiri and Charles Dickens share a common humanist stance toward the problem of social injustice and class inequality. Both writers, through the power of literary art, successfully carried out the task of exposing the social ills of their respective eras and defending the rights and dignity of ordinary people. A comparative study of their work contributes to a deeper understanding of the national particularities of the realist tradition in world literature, as well as of the artistic forms through which universal human values are expressed.